

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 EA-11 NIC-01 /149 W

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R 181450Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4647

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, CZ

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV TRIP TO PRAGUE

1. RFE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE CONCERNING PURPOSE OF ZHIVKOV'S SUDDEN OCTOBER 18 VISIT TO PRAGUE, SINCE BULGARIAN EXHIBIT HE IS OSTENSIBLY GOING TO OPEN HARDLY JUSTIFIED TRIP. RFE ANALYSTS SUGGEST THREE POSSIBILITIES, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEE THOUGHTS:

2. WITH HUSAK SCHEDULED TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA SHORTLY, ZHIVKOV MAY WISH TO CLARIFY BULGARIAN POSITION BEFORE HUSAK MEETS WITH TITO. HOWEVER, FACT THAT BULGARIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE BOTH BEEN SO CLOSELY ATTUNED TO SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY WOULD SEEM TO PRECLUDE ANY REAL DIFFERENCES.

3. HUSAK WAS APPARENTLY LAST MAJOR EAST EUROPEAN VISITOR TO NORTH KOREA (LAST MAY OR JUNE), AND ZHIVKOV IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT PYONGYANG WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. IF THERE IS ANY TRUTH TO REPORTS THAT SOVIETS ARE INTERESTED IN CONVENING CONFERENCE OF WORLD COMMUNIST PARTIES, SECURING NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE HIGH PRIORITY. RFE ANALYSTS NOTE IN THIS REGARD THAT BULGARIANS SEEM TO BE PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEALING WITH

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THE MORE INDEPENDENT PARTIES, CITING RECENT BERLINGUER VISIT TO

BULGARIA AS EXAMPLE.

4. FINALLY, SINCE CZECH-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN POOR  
RECENTLY, ZHIVKOV'S VISIT TO PRAGUE MAY BE CONNECTED WITH HIS  
RECENT TRIP TO AUSTRIA. RFE CONSIDERS THIS POSSIBILITY LESS  
LIKELY THAN OTHER TWO, HOWEVER, SINCE THIS MATTER PROBABLY WOULD  
NOT REQUIRE QUICK TRIP. VALDES

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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